



TELEGRAM

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-ALBAC,

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/28/86 (REYNOLDERS, THOMAS R.)

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PAGE

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| 1. E | NEA - FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD, MAY 17-22 | 2 |
| 2. A | NEA - IMPLICATION OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES | 5 |
| 3. R | IO - MIDEAST POLITICAL ISSUES IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) | 7 |
| 4. R | EA - SOUTH KOREA: DISORDER IN KWANGJU SUPPRESSED | 8 |
| 5. R | IO - GENEVA MEETING ON KAMPUCHEAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF | 9 |
| 6. R | IO - NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS | 11 |
| 7. R | AF - UGANDA: A THIRD INTERIM GOVERNMENT | 12 |
| 8. R | AF - UNREST IN SOUTH AFRICA SPREADS | 14 |
| 9. E | ED - RESULTS OF THE MAY 21-22 IEA MINISTERIAL | 15 |
| 10. E | ED - SENATE RATIFIES NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT | 15 |
| 11. PA | - AMERICANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OLYMPIC BOYCOTT BY LARGE MAJORITY | 17 |
| 12. INN | - NARCOTICS RELATED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE DISCUSSED AT OECD | 18 |
| 13. ARA | - NICARAGUA: TWO MODERATES JOIN REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA | 19 |

CONFIDENTIAL

3. (C) NEA - FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ISLAMABAD, MAY 17-22 (GDS 5/27/86)

(C) THE CONFERENCE TREATED MANY SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD, MOST PROMINENTLY THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, THE HOSTAGE PROBLEM, THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AND JERUSALEM. AFGHANISTAN CONSUMED A GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME AND DEBATE, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF SYRIA, LIBYA, SOUTH YEMEN AND THE PLO TO RELEGATE THIS MATTER TO THE BOTTOM OF THE AGENDA. IN ADDITION, A PLO-LED EFFORT TO REINSTATE THE KABUL REGIME AT THE CONFERENCE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

(C) THE RESOLUTION OF AFGHANISTAN REAFFIRMED THE JANUARY RESOLUTION ON SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION, EXPRESSED "DEEP CONCERN" AT THE CONTINUED SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE, REITERATED ITS DEMAND FOR THE "IMMEDIATE, TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL" WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOVIET TROOPS, REAFFIRMED ITS RESPECT FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR THE EARLY RETURN OF THE REFUGEES AND ASSISTANCE TO THEM IN THE INTERIM. PAKISTANI AND SAUDI REPRESENTATIVES WERE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THIS EFFORT TO FOCUS ON THE AFGHAN INVASION. THE INCLUSION OF SOME AFGHAN REBEL LEADERS IN THE IRANIAN DELEGATION, HELPED TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THIS SUBJECT.

(C) THE CONFERENCE ALSO DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A 3-MAN COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF PAKISTANI FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR AGHA SHAHI, IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER GHOTBZADEH AND CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL HABIB CHATTI, TO SEEK "A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE GRAVE CRISIS." THE COMMITTEE IS APPARENTLY PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH THE BABRAK REGIME AS ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT BUT NOT AS A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE USSR CANNOT BE PLEASED WITH THE COMPOSITION OF THIS COMMITTEE, ALL THREE MEMBERS OF WHOM WERE HARDLY CRITICAL OF THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, IT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL WELCOME THE RESULTING INTERNATIONAL CONTACT WITH THE BABRAK REGIME. SO FAR THE SOVIETS HAVE ATTACKED THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS BUT HAVE AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF THE NEW COMMITTEE. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER DOST HAS BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE WILL STUDY THE PROPOSAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

1 3

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE APPEARS PREPARED ALSO TO CONSULT WITH NATIONALIST REPRESENTATIVES AND WILL HELP KEEP THE ATTENTION OF THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES FOCUSED ON AFGHANISTAN.

(C) WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RETREATED FROM THE STRONG STAND TAKEN IN JANUARY AGAINST THE SOVIET INVASION!

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WE CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF EFFORTS TO DEVISE A POLITICAL SOLUTION SO LONG AS SUCH EFFORTS FOCUS PRIORITY ATTENTION ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS PROMPTLY AND THE RIGHT OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO FORM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. BOTH OF THESE ELEMENTS ARE REAFFIRMED IN THE RESOLUTION UNDER WHICH THE NEW COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT ITS CONSULTATIONS. WE WILL BE MONITORING THE COURSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS CLOSELY AND HOPE THAT THEY DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SADRAK REGIME'S EFFORTS TO GAIN LEGITIMACY.

(C) WHILE STRONGLY CRITICIZING THE SOVIET UNION ON AFGHANISTAN, MODERATE COUNTRIES (INCLUDING PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA) JOINED IN THE CONDEMNATION OF THE U.S. RESCUE MISSION AS "AGGRESSION" AND OPPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN.

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(C) PREDICTABLY, A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S., ISRAEL AND EGYPT. SOME PARTICIPANTS HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE ANTI-U.S. TONE OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEBATES PERVADED MUCH OF THE OTHER SESSIONS AT THE MEETING. THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS WERE FIRMLY DENOUNCED, AS WERE ATTEMPTS BY ANY "BIG POWER" TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASES IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES. THE CONFERENCE CALLED FOR AN EARLY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND, IF ISRAEL DOES NOT "RESCIND ITS DECISION TO MAKE JERUSALEM ITS CAPITAL" WITHIN THREE MONTHS, AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE ALSO RECOMMENDED A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH STATES WHICH MOVE THEIR EMBASSIES TO JERUSALEM, A FORMULA WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN THE OBJECT OF DISSENT AMONG SOME CONFERENCE

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1 4

PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY AFRICANS AND OTHERS LESS EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE.

{C} THE OVERALL TONE OF THE CONFERENCE REFLECTED EVIDENT ANXIETY OF SOME MEMBERS OVER THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF INCREASING RIVALRY BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND IN SOUTHWEST ASIA. PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE VAGUE NOTION OF "COLLECTIVE SECURITY AMONG THE COMMUNITY OF ISLAM" EXEMPLIFIES THIS CONCERN AND THE GENERAL UNCERTAINTY AMONG THESE STATES OVER WHAT TO DO TO MINIMIZE THE DANGERS TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS. THE CONFERENCE ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF IRAN IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

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